



SPRING IS IN THE AIR Homeowner Responsibilities

Flowers are starting to bloom, leaves are back on trees and the grass is growing. Our neighborhood is one of the most beautiful in Rockford because we all do our part in maintaining our properties. As we get back into the seasonal duties of lawn maintenance, here are some reminders of City ordinances. We also ask that if you live on an alley, please keep trees trimmed and avoid clutter. We need to keep these lanes clear for drivers.

- All properties shall be maintained free from weeds and plant growth in excess of 8 inches.
- All noxious weeds shall be prohibited, this excludes cultivated crops, flowers and gardens.
- Maintain any vegetation growth on the right of way of your property, including parkways, sidewalks and alley ways.
- All yard waste is to be disposed of properly. It is illegal to dump grass clips or leaves into streets or alleys.
- Rock River Disposal picks up yard waste during normal garbage pickup. Yard waste material must be placed in compostable paper bags or in 32 gallon or smaller trash cans that have been marked with a large "X" that is plainly visible from the street.
- Twigs, branches and other types of large brush that cannot fit into either of these containers must be placed in bundles no more than 4 feet long by 2 feet in diameter.

To report bushes and trees obstructing public right-of-way areas or dead trees with the potential to fall into these areas, please contact the weeds hotline at 779-348-7161 or see the new online portal - story on page 5.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Don Schreiner, President
Brandon Kruse, VP
Mark Podemski, Treasurer
BJ Alexis, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Barb Calgano
Phyllis Holm
Richard Lopez
Cassie Pike
Michelle Polivka
James Richter II
Zak Rotello
Emily Rose Walch

Need to reach the board?
Email us:
rockfordedgewater@gmail.com

12th Ward Alderman
Gina Meeks
815-419-1143
gina.meeks@rockfordil.gov

EDGEWATER MEETINGS

All Neighbors Welcome! 5:30
pm at Rockford Country Club.

May 17, 2023
June 21, 2023
July 19, 2023
August 16, 2023

Spring has sprung in Edgewater! The flowering trees are in full bloom and our neighbors are out and about...it is such a beautiful place to live.

Our seasonal activities began with the annual Edgewater neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt. It was so well-attended and joyfully supported by our residents and their families, the City of Rockford Fire and Police, Rockford Park District representatives, and dozens of invaluable volunteers who organized and participated in all the various tasks. A special thank you to Alderman Gina Meeks, who is instrumental in helping our association collaborate and work together with our local government agencies. And, a big shout-out to Mike Goddard. Every year Mike is there with his truck and incredible sound system, providing music and public announcements for our residents during the entire event.

As the temperature continues to warm up, I look forward to seeing our neighbors enjoying the weather, working in their yards, walking, running, and bicycling. So, what is up for the Edgewater Neighborhood Association next?

The Annual Garage Sale takes place on May 6th. This is a fantastic way to clean out closets, basements, and garages while offering the opportunity to find new treasures at bargain prices! Please make sure and register if you decide to set up a garage sale at your home. By doing so, you will be added to the neighborhood map ensuring additional traffic to your site. (see details on page 3)

Last, but not least, I am pleased to announce that since our last newsletter in February, our association membership has increased from 155 households to 172 households!!! We are getting closer to our goal of 250 member households by 12/31/23. Please consider joining today for \$25 per calendar year (see last page of the newsletter). All dues go directly back to our association for alley snow removal, beautification, neighborhood signage, social events, Oxford Park improvements and stewardship, and our incredible newsletter, just to name a few.

Don Schreiner
President, Edgewater Neighborhood Association

WILL YOUR YOUR LAWN BE FEATURED?



Be on the lookout for these yard signs this summer as we continue to feature Lawn of the Month. Our neighborhood is broken up into five zones and a winner is picked from each zone per month. The committee will start to pick their favorites in June. With so many wonderful choices, their decisions are never easy!

EDGEWATER GARAGE SALE

MAY 6, 8am to 3pm

Our spring garage sale is less than a week away. Start cleaning out closets and basements and submit your sale for the map. We will make electronic maps available for visitors. Scan the code to enter your sale, or [click here](#). The deadline to submit is Noon on May 3.



ROCKFORD POLICE BINGO WITH SENIORS

Second Friday of every month

9:30 am - 11:30 am

District 1 Police Station, 1045 West State Street, Rockford

4th of July Celebration

JULY 4, 6pm to Dusk

Oxford Park is the perfect location to watch the Rockford Country Club fireworks, which is just after dusk. Kona Ice truck will be onsite with flavored shaved ice. We are in the early stages of planning other activities.

LUMINARY SALE

DECEMBER 2 - 9am-3pm

Buy your luminary supplies at Village Green on North Main Street. There will be a free sand pile available on a first-come, first-served basis.

EDGEWATER HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 14, 5:30-8:00pm

Save the date! We plan to bring back the annual holiday party in 2023. We'll have more details throughout the year, but we wanted you to put this fun event on your calendar now.



LUMINARY NIGHT

DECEMBER 16

We are committing to the 3rd Saturday in December for Luminary Night going forward. Enjoy and participate in this Edgewater tradition. Line your walkways with luminaries (white candle-lit bags weighted with sand) at dusk.





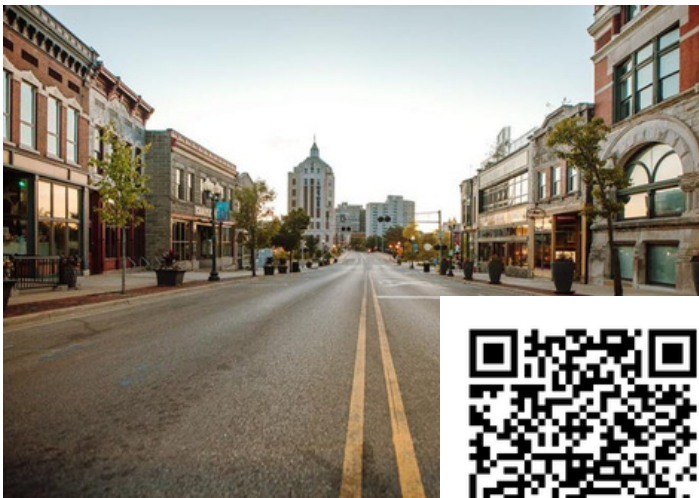
WANT TO THROW A BLOCK PARTY?

QUICK-START TIPS:

Having a Block Party is one of the most encouraging and exciting things you can do for your neighbors! A wonderful opportunity to meet, share a meal, play games, and catch up! And, if you're willing to put in a couple of hours, it's really not that hard to plan. Here are a few tips to hosting one in our neighborhood.

1. Plan at least 2 months ahead of time. Once you pick a date (Sundays seem to be free days for most people), you will need to fill out and put together an application to submit to the city.
2. The application needs to be SUBMITTED 4 weeks prior to the event date, but you need a number of things completed for the application, which might take about 2 weeks:
 - a. Look at all the rules to follow on the application. See application link below.
 - b. You need SIGNED APPROVAL from 90% of the residents on the block – you will need to go door-to-door to get signature from your neighbors. This is a great way to get them excited and involved in helping you plan! However, this is one of the more time-consuming aspects, as you may need to spread this over several days to catch people at home (allow a week or two to accomplish this).
 - c. Create a map showing where you plan to put the blockades (which cross-streets) and showing a 15-foot section of the street (the length of the street) where firetrucks will be able to drive if necessary – where there will not be things/tables/tents set-up in the way.
 - d. Host WILL be responsible for the event and anything that happens there. Party must end by 10pm.
 - e. There is a \$35 fee for the application, which must be submitted to the public works department (address in the application), or to CORspecialevents@rockfordil.gov.
 - f. You will need the Alderman's signature on the completed application. Our Alderman is Gina Meeks. You can contact her at gina.meeks@rockfordil.gov
3. You will need to set up and take down the street barricades yourself – the city only drops them off (they drop the bases in your yard, the barricades at the street intersections).
4. Have a great event!

City of Rockford Special Events Link: <https://rockfordil.gov/city-departments/public-works/special-events/>
Block Party Application: <https://rockfordil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Block-Party-Application-2023-fillable.pdf>



Scan to access portal



NEW CITIZEN PORTAL

The City of Rockford just launched a new online portal for permitting and service requests. Service requests include reporting potholes, weeds, problem properties and tree issues, as well as many other complaints. This new portal streamlines the application process. It also allows residents to schedule inspections, make a one-time payment and look up records. To view the new portal, go to www.rockfordil.gov and click on Citizen Portal or scan the code.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

GRAFFITI HOTLINE:

779-348-7261

NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS HOTLINE:

779-348-7395

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER:

815-966-2900

WINNEBAGO COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL:

815-319-4100

OXFORD PARK UPDATE



OXFORD PARK



We are targeting the end of summer or early fall for the completion of the new playground. The Rockford Park District has ordered the new equipment and will begin construction after the 4th of July. The Park District didn't want to remove our existing playground until all of the pieces of the new playground were delivered and ready to go. This will ensure our park is only out of commission for as little time as possible. We are excited for the upgraded surface material we are getting that allows people of all abilities to utilize the playground. No more mulch!

The Edgewater Board is working with the Park District to plan the unveiling ceremony. More details to come in our next newsletter.

Easter EGG HUNT

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2022 Edgewater Holiday Party in December. We had more than 100 people attend the event at Rockford Country Club. We had crafts for the kids, a silent auction, wonderful food and most important, an opportunity to spend time with friends and neighbors. Mark your calendar for the 2023 event on December 14!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Edgewater Association is looking for neighbors who are interested in sharing their time and talent. Our sought-after neighborhood wouldn't be what it is without volunteers. Below are opportunities for consideration:

- Writer for the newsletter
- Beautification committee to help plant or/or water plants/pots
- Coordinate events - 4th of July, garage sale, Easter, Luminaria
- Recruit membership
- Sell ads in the newsletter
- Membership data entry

The roles are flexible and don't take up much time. If you're interested, email rockfordedgewater@gmail.com.

REPORTING CRIME HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

**The Rockford Police Department
is introducing our new
Rockford PD tip411 anonymous
crime-fighting app!**

(Download the app on the App Store or Google Play)



You can also send an anonymous tip via text message to the Rockford Police Department.

Text the keyword RPDTIP and your tip to 847411.

Apple Users

Scan to Download App on Apple Store



Android Users

Scan to Download App on Google Play



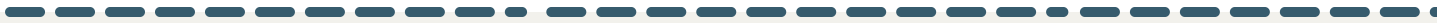
WHY MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

The Edgewater Neighborhood Association was established in 1979 to create a greater sense of community and provide resources that help keep Edgewater a beautiful, safe, and inviting place to live. Currently, 172 households have paid the \$25 membership fee for 2023. **2023 GOAL - 250 Households as Members.** See the membership form below or go online at rockfordedgewater.org.



Your annual membership fee supports:

- Seasonal Neighborhood Activities including the Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Garage Sale, 4th of July Festivities in Oxford Park, Luminaria and the holiday party.
- Snow Plow Fund: The City does not plow Edgewater’s alleys, so we pool our resources and contract with UniTrim Cement to keep the alleys clear. Due to inflation and rising fuel costs, our fees are up an average of 7%. We spend \$410-\$585 per snowfall depending snowfall amounts.
- Plantings at the signs and pots on the bridge.
- Postage and printing for neighborhood mailings as well as signs advertising neighborhood activities.



JOIN THE EDGEWATER ASSOCIATION

Please mail your completed form with check to:
Edgewater Neighborhood Association
PO Box 515, Rockford, IL 61105

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Dues: **\$25 annually**

Additional Donation _____ (supports snow removal & other neighborhood activities)

TOTAL _____

Checks may be made out to Edgewater Neighborhood Association. Prefer to pay by card? Pay online at www.rockfordedgewater.org or scan the QR code

